

BALTIMORE, MD.

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S. 313,454

MAY 5 1966

LOUIS AZRAEL SAYS:

If Beans Cost More, Tell Morton

Paper galore comes to the desk each day; paper covered with print, handwriting, typewriting, mimeographing. All is at least scanned. Parts of it—small parts, usually—make an impression.

Like . . .

A LETTER from a Maryland Congressman who may be undertaking more than he expects . . .



Congressman Rogers C. B. Morton writes that he is greatly worried about rising prices. He wants more information on the subject. Therefore, he asks: "I'd like Marylanders who share my concern to join in a 'Volunteer Watchers Corps' to keep me posted.

"When you notice a change in price on a can of beans, a broom, a gallon of paint, a ton of fertilizer or any other item, jot down the details and send them to me . . . The same information would be appreciated on services that you pay for."

If Marylanders, especially women, take the Congressman's request seriously, the postal department had better hire extra men.

TWO PIECES of printed paper deal with subjects which, on the surface, have no possible connection. Actually there is a very important connection.

One piece is the Supreme Court's opinion in the case of Thomas F. Johnson, who was a Maryland Congressman and was convicted of taking money to make a Congressional speech favoring certain types of savings and loan associations.

The other deals with the case, now pending in Baltimore's Federal Court, of a CIA agent who is being sued for slander on the ground that he publicly accused someone of being a Communist agent.

In the Congressman's case, the Supreme Court ruled that whether Johnson accepted a bribe or not, he cannot be convicted. Full discussion of public issues by Congressmen is so important, the court held, that the Constitution forbids prosecution for anything that is said in Congressional speeches, regardless of its truth or the Congressmen's motives.

In the CIA man's case, the government contends that whether its employee slandered someone or not, he cannot be held legally responsible because he was acting under instructions.

The News American

THE PAGE OPPOSITE

Thursday, May 5, 1966 ★ 11B

The connection between the two cases, of course, is that both make the point that the broad interests of the nation rise above the interests of—even justice to—individuals.

ANOTHER PIECE of paper includes harsh language about Maryland's state administration.

It is a letter sent by Rep. Clarence D. Long to many constituents. It asks them to help get signers to a petition for a public vote on the question of a new Chesapeake Bay Bridge beside the present one.

In it, Long describes the proposed bridge, which was advocated by the Governor and approved by the Legislature, as . . .

"A bridge whose main rationale seems to be the millions of dollars of engineering, legal, insurance and other fees to be made from its construction."

A MIMEOGRAPHED booklet sent by Baltimore County Commissioner Spiro Agnew consists mostly of figures (it is the budget he proposes for next year) but it also contains this bit of horse sense . . .

"We would be penny-wise and pound-foolish if we fail to invest in the county's education system, its police and fire bureaus, its roads and utilities, its playgrounds, parks and other amenities.

"Because of our past efforts we enjoyed during the last 12 months a \$100 million growth in assessable basis. This growth was no accident. It occurred because people, industries and businesses believe Baltimore County is a good place to live and locate.

"Taxes must rise during a period of expansion but when Baltimore County is full grown it will remain prosperous because we are providing quality materials, amenities and services during the growing years."

This horse sense that can be pondered ruefully by Baltimore City officials and residents. Most of the troubles which now face the city, including the exodus of many thousands of families, would have been avoided if there had been more attention to improving the city; less to the lower right-hand figure on the tax bills.